

S. Africa content with Israeli military ties

TEL AVIV (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. Botha said Sunday there was no need for Israel to lift restrictions on military cooperation between their countries. Mr. Botha is accompanying President F.W. de Klerk, who arrived Sunday for the first visit to Israel by a South African head of state in 16 years. "We have no intention to discuss any military matters. There is no reason for it, no reason whatsoever," Mr. Botha told reporters after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy. "The position is well known since 1987. No new contracts have been signed. There is no need for new contracts to sign now or in the future." There have been recurring media reports of secret cooperation between Israel and South Africa, especially in nuclear and missile technology. Israel has denied them. In 1987 Israel followed most Western countries in imposing military, cultural, and economic sanctions to press for abolition of apartheid. It said it would not sign new military contracts with South Africa but would honour existing ones. Last July, Israel lifted all but military sanctions in response to Mr. De Klerk's step-by-step reforms to give South Africa's black majority a share in running the country.

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Brotherhood sends petition to Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood movement Saturday sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Taher Masri calling on him to give newspapers "freedom of expression and to allow writers to express their views in a healthy and democratic atmosphere and to allow opposition to use peaceful means in expressing their views in the media and public places." It called on the government to allow publishing Al Rabat newspaper, the mouthpiece of the movement, in Jordan. The memo said that the Brotherhood's opposition to the government "stems from our keenness on the interests of our homeland and nation, and it is an opposition by democratic means and a stabilizing factor in such circumstances."

U.S. ambassador returns to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roger G. Harrison, returned to Amman Sunday after receiving medical treatment as a result of a car accident outside of Jerusalem on Oct. 28. Mr. Harrison is expected to make a full recovery and will resume his duties after a period of rest at home, according to a press release issued by the American embassy here.

King Fahd names new air chief

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd named Lieutenant-General Majed Ben Tahab Al Utabi as air force commander Sunday, the Saudi Press Agency said. Gen. Ben Utabi replaces Prince Khaled Ben Sultan, commander of joint forces in the Gulf war, who stepped down in late September. No official reason has been given for the departure of Prince Khaled, son of Defence Minister Prince Sultan, but diplomats in the kingdom said he wanted to pursue business interests.

All U.S. army gear out of S. Arabia soon

BAHRAIN (AP) — With the exception of nearly a quarter of a million tons of ammunition, all American military equipment deployed in Saudi Arabia for the Gulf war will be out of the kingdom by Dec. 15, a U.S. military spokesman said Sunday. Major Charles Hayes, a spokesman for the U.S. military's joint information bureau in Dhahran, added that the ammunition would be shipped back by April of next year. The United States has signed agreements with Kuwait and Bahrain to pre-position weapons as part of a security pact, and plans others with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council such as Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. But so far, Saudi Arabia has not appeared willing to allow pre-positioned equipment on its soil.

Tonga king visits Christian holy sites

LOD (AP) — King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga arrived Sunday on a three-day visit to Christian holy sites on the Jordan River. "Tonga has very good and friendly relations with Israel but also with the Arabs. We do not make discrimination," the king told reporters at Ben Gurion international airport. The king will also meet with Israeli President Chaim Herzog during his stay. He is accompanied by his wife, Queen Halaezain Matz'ah. Mr. Herzog visited Tonga, a chain of 169 islands in the South Pacific, five years ago. The king will also travel to Italy to watch Tonga's national soccer team play the Italians.

Correction

Due to an inadvertent error, the Jordan Times, in its Nov. 10 issue, quoted Prime Minister Taher Masri as saying that Washington could be the best venue for holding Arab-Israeli multilateral talks. The prime minister had actually said that Washington could be the best venue for Arab-Israeli bilateral talks and that Jordan supports the idea of holding the multilateral talks very soon. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

Palestinian delegates returning home get tumultuous welcome

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian peace negotiators returned to a jubilant welcome in the occupied territories Sunday and told hundreds of supporters waving olive branches that a new era has begun in the Middle East.

The Palestinian leaders announced they would form political committees to serve as the vanguard for a Palestinian government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Nothing can stop the Palestinians' march to freedom," Faisal Husseini, head of the delegation's advisory committee, later said in a rare appearance on Israeli television. He spoke in Hebrew.

Mr. Husseini also suggested that the Palestinians would halt the stone-throwing attacks against troops and Jewish settlers in the occupied territories that have been a key element of the four-year Palestinian uprising.

Until now, the intifada was

with stones. Now, there is an intifada with olive branches. Now, if you want it, if the Israelis want it, the intifada can come with a new face, Mr. Husseini told Israeli army radio.

The Palestinian delegates and advisers, travelling in two buses,

returned to the West Bank from Jordan via the King Hussein Bridge.

The delegates immediately began preparing for the next stage of the conference face-to-face bargaining with Israel over their demands for independence.

The venue has not been fixed but delegates expect talks to start within two weeks.

U.S. diplomats eased the delegates' passage through Israeli security checks at the bridge crossing from Jordan.

Mr. Husseini leaned out of a bus window and told reporters that a "new era" had begun.

"Palestinian people will have a state next to the state of Israel, and together we will make a new future in the Middle East," he said.

Delegate Saeb Erekat added: "One day when I come back to this bridge I hope I will find a Palestinian official greeting me."

When the two buses reached the town of Jericho near the bridge, hundreds of residents reached through the windows to shake the hands of their delegates and hand them olive branches. The crowd chanted "Palestine is Arab" and "we want peace," and motorists honked their horns in

(Continued on page 5)

Hizbullah says no role in AUB bomb

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah said Sunday the bombing of the American University of Beirut (AUB) was staged to frame his group.

"The whole world knows that this university has been within Hizbullah's reach for so many years if we wanted to attack it," Sheik Abbas Musawi told a mass rally in Beirut in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

"Those who staged this cowardly act aimed at pushing Hizbullah into a corner where it would be framed as the culprit" Sheikh Musawi said.

The U.S.-affiliated university's administration building, clock tower and library were blown up by a car bomb explosion Friday. One person was killed and eight wounded. Damage was estimated at \$125 million.

No group has claimed responsibility. But the attack followed threats by pro-Iranian factions to strike at American interests.

'Shamir rejected expulsion of Palestinians while in Madrid'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A left-wing legislator said Sunday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir prevented the expulsion of five Palestinian activists on the first day of the Madrid peace conference.

Legislator Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement said Defense Minister Moshe Arens wanted to issue an order Oct. 30 to expel five Palestinians, but other officials insisted he consult Mr. Shamir at the peace talks.

The proposal came after an attack on a settler bus in the occupied West Bank two days earlier in which the bus driver and a settler woman were killed. A hardline Palestinian group later took responsibility for the attack.

When the proposal was put before Mr. Shamir in Madrid he immediately rejected it, Mr. Zucker added.

"I sent a letter to Shamir saying he should order his cabinet ministers to be sensitive and cautious with the steps they are taking... in order not to undermine the political effort by measures such as this," Mr. Zucker told the Associated Press.

"I added that his rejection of the proposal was a good example of how past measures should not be automatically adopted to new circumstances," Mr. Zucker said.

The daily Maariv said the five slated for expulsion were Palestinians from the West Bank.

Both the prime ministry and defense ministry declined comment on Mr. Zucker's report.

Increased support for land for peace

Also Sunday, the daily Al Hananah published a poll that found that 74 per cent of Israelis are willing to trade land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for peace, and 31 per cent are willing to make similar concessions on the Golan Heights.

The poll, carried out by the Institute for Regional Research, questioned 80,766 Israelis at their homes Oct. 6-20. The margin of error was less than half a per cent.



CROWN PRINCE MEETS ARCHBISHOP: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives the archbishop of the Australian city of Sydney, Dr. Ronald Robinson, for a review of the problems of the Middle East. Prince Hassan also discussed with the guest the problems facing Jordan and the humanitarian aid Jordan needs to alleviate the sufferings and concerns of the returnees who streamed into the country during the Gulf crisis. The Crown Prince also discussed with Dr. Robinson the importance of inter-faith dialogue. The meeting was attended by Australian Ambassador to Jordan Bob Bowker (Petra photo).

Chechens defiant against Yeltsin

GROZNY, the Soviet Union (AP) — Nationalists in the secessionist Chechen-Ingush region

blocked rail and air routes into their southern Russian territory Sunday, fearing troops will try to enforce Boris Yeltsin's emergency rule.

Meanwhile, protesters reportedly were gathering in the capital's Freedom Square — one week after the mostly Muslim region declared independence from the Russian Republic.

Mr. Yeltsin says he will not allow his federation, home to scores of ethnic groups, to disintegrate. He decreed the imposition of emergency rule, beginning Saturday, which banned rallies, ordered weapons impounded and took over Chechen-Ingushetia's government for one month.

In Moscow, Russian legislators planned a special session Sunday to endorse President Yeltsin's emergency rule in the region of 1.3 million people. Bunt the decree was protested by Mr. Yeltsin's interior minister in the territory, Chechen native Vakha Ibrahimov, who resigned in disagreement, government-run Russia Rossiya Radio reported.

Mr. Yeltsin's hand-picked interim administrator, Ahmad Arsanov, reportedly said Saturday the emergency should be lifted.

The radio said the defection decreased chances that troops would enforce Mr. Yeltsin's decree. That could leave the Rus-

(Continued on page 5)

Government promises to study problems faced by industries over new tax, collection

Minister to review consumer tax and 'draconian measures'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with an angry reaction by Jordanian industrialists who rose up in arms against the recent imposition of new consumer tax, the government Sunday appeared to have adopted a conciliatory stand with a promise to study and address their problems.

"I do not know on what basis they are complaining," said Finance Minister Bassem Jardaneh, adding that he had not seen a petition submitted to Prime Minister Taha Masri by the industrialists.

"But we are ready to review their problems and consider appropriate action," he told the Jordan Times, adding that he was meeting with a representative group of Jordanian industrialists on Wednesday.

The finance minister reiterated that the government's policy of encouraging exports and developing local industries remained unchanged.

Mr. Jardaneh also said the government was considering additional incentives to export-oriented industries. He did not elaborate.

Jordanian industrialists have gone public with their opposition not only to the 10 per cent consumer tax (value added tax — VAT) and a government-proposed procedure to collect the tax but also a decrease in customs duties on a series of imported products classified as "essential."

Although no official would confirm it, it is widely believed that the imposition of consumer tax is part of an agreement that the government has reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restructure the Kingdom's economy.

Scarce details are available on the discussions between the government and the IMF, but the main thrust of any related measure will be to reduce the fiscal budget deficit by increasing revenues and cutting down govern-

ment expenditure.

No figures are available yet on the amount the government expects to raise as consumer tax.

Speaker after speaker at a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry building on Saturday let off angry outbursts over the VAT and argued that any such increases in prices for the consumer were unacceptable given the rising cost of living in the Kingdom.

The importance and seriousness with which the industrialists view the situation were evident in the words of Ahmad Ghneim, who spoke on behalf of clearance and follow-up agents in Jordan.

If the Chamber of Industry cannot address and find a solution to the problem," said Mr. Ghneim, "we might as well pack up and go home."

Particularly disturbing to manufacturers of low-priced consumer products such as chocolates and biscuits was

(Continued on page 5)

Maxwell laid to rest; investigations continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Robert Maxwell, a Polish refugee who built a global publishing empire, was buried Sunday in occupied Jerusalem.

The publisher of London's Daily Mirror and the New York daily news was buried in the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives in occupied Jerusalem in the kind of funeral usually reserved for statesmen, eulogized by President Chaim Herzog as "a mighty man... of almost mythological stature."

Meanwhile, protesters reportedly were gathering in the capital's Freedom Square — one week after the mostly Muslim region declared independence from the Russian Republic.

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(Continued on page 5)

Iran-Qatar water pipeline planned

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran agreed Sunday to supply fresh water to the Gulf state of Qatar via a 1,800-kilometer pipeline, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said the agreement was signed at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Tehran by Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Al Thani. Four other agreements for cooperation in education, labour, air transportation and trade were also signed, the radio said. It said Sheikh Khalifa was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Vice President Hassan Habibi. The radio said in a commentary that talks on the water project began two months ago. It said: "This project can not only provide the water for Qatar, but for the rest of the southern and Arab countries of the Gulf." A joint statement released simultaneously in Tehran and Doha condemned Israel's "aggression policies" and called for regional countries to maintain Gulf security, the radio said. It also called for more cooperation between Iran and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Kaddoumi in Cairo; meeting with Saud possible

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi arrived in Cairo Sunday and called on Washington to honour a promise to force Israel to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"The United States has to prove its goodwill... it promised to exert pressure on Israel to stop building settlements once and for all," said Mr. Kaddoumi. He did not say when or where Washington made such a promise.

Washington has called Jewish settlements in the occupied territories an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Kaddoumi also called on Washington to "show its appreciation for the flexible stand" the PLO had taken to facilitate the convening of the Middle East peace conference.

He did not elaborate but the PLO has urged Washington to resume contacts which were severed when the PLO failed to condemn a foiled raid on Israel last year by a hardline Palestinian faction.

Palestinian sources also said "quiet efforts" were underway to persuade the United States to reopen the PLO's information office in Washington.

Mr. Kaddoumi was due to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa during his visit to discuss the second phase of the peace process and diplomats said he might also hold talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi Al Faisal.

Prince Saud arrived in Cairo earlier on Sunday to attend talks Monday with his counterparts from Egypt, Syria and the five other Gulf Arab states on regional security arrangements.

Syria front's stand

Syria's ruling coalition accused Israel of trying to sabotage the Arab-Israeli peace talks which ended in Madrid last Monday, officials said Sunday.

A meeting of the National

(Continued on page 5)

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Middle East News

Many Palestinians feel euphoria over peace prospects

BIR ZEIT, occupied West Bank (AP) — Jamile Abdul Hadi, 70, dares to dream about the future for the first time since Israeli occupation began 24 years ago.

If there is a peace agreement with Israel, she said with a broad smile, she will resume adult education classes at Bir Zeit University, now closed by the Israeli army, and bring home a son exiled by the military government.

Other Palestinians caution that the emotional high created by the Madrid peace talks may be short-lived. They say deep despair may follow unless the lot of Arabs in the occupied territories improves quickly.

Mrs. Abdul Hadi and the other comparative optimists have been gripped by euphoria since the Madrid talks, imagining for the first time in years what it would be like if the army withdraw and they could run their own lives.

They spin fantasies of opening a business, running for city council or voting for the first time. Many swelled with pride at the

television pictures of their delegates whisked in motorcades through the streets of the Spanish capital and sitting as equals with the Israeli occupiers.

"It was a great achievement ... after all these years in which Israel refused to deal with us," said Talal Zahran, 40, a contractor from the West Bank town of Nablus. "Now the whole world knows who the Palestinians are."

Ibrahim Dakak, a 62-year-old Palestinian philosopher, had a more sceptical view. "People are fed up with words and slogans. They want something very practical. Nothing has changed here since Madrid. We still have curfews, we have strikes, we have people being killed."

Generally, however, hope prevails.

"When I watched our Palestinian delegation, I felt this was a beginning, and that all our pain and suffering will come to an end." Mrs. Abdul Hadi told a visitor on the glass-enclosed porch of her home in Bir Zeit.

Her house was rebuilt from ruins. Soldiers blew it up in 1969, when one of her sons was convicted of planting a bomb that killed three Israelis.

"If there is to be peace, we must forget about the terrible things we did to each other," she said.

Several men who had gathered for a morning chat in Bir Zeit's central square seemed baffled when asked whether they had plans for life under self-rule. Their talk kept returning to hardships of the present, like tax raids and curfews.

"I can't tell you anything because peace is still just a dream," said Hanna Musallam, 40, who runs a snack shop on the square.

When their initial reluctance had passed, the men spoke of the future with relish.

Mr. Musallam said he would open a boarding house for university students, run for the city council and be the one to hoist the Palestinian flag atop the town hall.

Mahmoud Abdul Lafi, a tailor,

wants to design his own line of clothing for export and take an active role in municipal affairs.

"We need to build gardens and swimming pools here; we need to build our Palestine," said Mr. Lafi, 53.

Some Palestinians doubt the peace talks will produce tangible results. They cite the hardline taken by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, who had said the Palestinians can hope for only limited autonomy.

Israel's continuing practice of settling Jews in the occupied territories makes Palestinians fear settlers will take all the land and force them to leave. So far, no settlements have been built near Bir Zeit.

Muslim fundamentalists and followers of hardline Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions call the talks a sellout. They have threatened to kill Palestinian delegates and increase violence against the army.

"We asked them if they want peace and they said 'yes,'" the boy recalled, his face beaming.

when the Madrid conference began, three Palestinians have been killed in clashes with soldiers and three were slain by other Arabs on suspicion of being informers.

Still, the atmosphere has softened. In dozens of peace marches in the last two weeks, Palestinian teenagers who used to throw stones chanted "We want peace" and handed olive branches to often-perplexed Israeli soldiers.

Some of the demonstrations were organised by local activists, apparently to score points during the conference, but others appeared spontaneous.

Fadi Mughrabi, a 10-year-old from Bethlehem, said he and his friends were playing soccer in a field last Monday when they saw a jeep passing and began chanting "we want peace."

Three soldiers got out of the jeep, smiled at the children and joined the soccer game, Fadi said.

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Second anti-drug caravan planned in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabian officials have announced they will organise a second nationwide anti-drug caravan to educate citizens and expatriates.

The first caravan in January 1990 visited 12 Saudi cities.

The organiser, the National Commission for Combating Drugs, said Saturday the second will be launched in October 1992 to coincide with the beginning of the next academic year.

Under the Kingdom's laws, drug smugglers and dealers are beheaded by sword in line with the Islamic Sharia by which the kingdom rules.

According to drug combating department's acting director-general, Major General Ibrahim Al Maiman, drug smuggling into the kingdom has roughly halved since the country introduced capital punishment for the offenders in 1987.

The death sentence for traffickers and traders was decided by King Fahd on the approval of the Council of Senior Islamic Scholars, the highest religious body in Saudi Arabia.

The second caravan will visit 11 major cities in two months. It will later go to neighbouring Gulf Cooperation Council countries — Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Like the first one, it will consist of colourfully decorated cars, motorcycles, camels and horse-drawn carriages that will carry anti-drug banners.

Lectures depicting the dangers of drugs will be delivered and pamphlets and booklets will be distributed.

"It is a pioneering national venture to generate awareness about this fatal poison," said Prince Faisal Ben Fahd, chief of the Presidency of Youth Welfare and Sports, a co-sponsor of the caravan.

The commission said more attractive and appealing display facilities will be introduced during the second caravan. Festivals comprising films, theatrical shows and art exhibitions with drug abuse as the main theme will be held.

Preachers, psychologists, social experts and college professors will give lectures.

"There will be specific areas in which many rounds will have been fired where localised contamination of vehicles and the soil may exceed permissible limits and these could be hazardous to clean-up teams and the local population," the newspaper quoted the report as saying.

"If DU (depleted uranium) gets in the food chain or water system, this will create potential health problems."

An AEA spokesman could not in an interview confirm the existence of the report.

China denies any nuclear cooperation with Iraq

PEKING (R) — China, the focus of mounting Western concern that it may recklessly be spreading the technology to build nuclear weapons, Sunday officially denied it had any nuclear cooperation with Iraq.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman called the reports "utterly groundless."

China in April made a similar response following reports that it might have helped Algeria develop nuclear weapons technology.

The nuclear issue is expected to feature prominently when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Peking on Nov. 15, the highest U.S. official to visit China since its bloody 1989 crackdown on dissent.

Diplomatic analysts say Mr. Baker, also due to discuss Peking's human rights record and its trade policies, will push the Chinese hard to explain more fully their overseas nuclear cooperation programmes.

Washington's worries over China's nuclear exports deepened last month when the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, unexpectedly declined to approve a move to sign Peking up for the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

China, which had earlier publicly promised to accede to the treaty, is the only major nuclear power which has not joined.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Oct. 31 that the proposal needed to be further studied by relevant committees and that China would sign the treaty "once the necessary procedures have been gone through."

Allies left radioactive waste on Gulf battlefield, report says

LONDON (AP) — Chemical and radioactive waste left on the Gulf war battlefield is a threat to the health of thousands of Kuwaitis as well as British and other Western clean-up team, a newspaper said Sunday.

The allied armies left at least 40 tonnes of depleted uranium in tens of thousands of armour-piercing rounds fired at Iraqi vehicles from U.S. aircraft and British and U.S. tanks during the conflict, the Independent on Sunday said.

Correspondence began several months ago, and the authority said the government was then given a full report.

"As of now, there is no contract between us for us to do this work," he added.

The newspaper quoted what it said was a secret British Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) report.

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"If DU (depleted uranium) gets in the food chain or water system, this will create potential health problems."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said he was unaware of having received such a report. Royal Ordnance was not available for comment.

An 'enemy' could have killed Maxwell — widow

LONDON (R) — The widow of international media tycoon Robert Maxwell says she thought an enemy might have killed him, while his doctor described his death as very strange.

The burly publisher disappeared from his yacht in the Atlantic on Tuesday and his naked body was found hours later in the sea off Spain's Canary Islands. An initial autopsy suggested a heart attack.

Mr. Maxwell cannot move to disbar Hizbullah, as he did in July against a weakened PLÖ, without risking a split in his Syrian-backed government.

President Elias Hrawi is trying to restore state authority over the flashpoint south, where the key to Lebanon's long-term stability lies.

He is also waging a diplomatic campaign to force the Israelis to withdraw — with little success so far.

The guerrilla attacks bolster Israel's argument that it can never pull out while its northern border is threatened.

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Some cabinet ministers openly sympathise with the guerrillas — although their campaign dooms the battered south to yet another cycle of violence.

Maxwell did not have a heart condition and was in good health.

Spanish authorities released Mr. Maxwell's body Wednesday after provisional autopsy findings indicated he died of natural causes, possibly a heart attack.

The death certificate stated he died of cardio-respiratory arrest.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Joseph said: "There is no sign of a heart attack per se. It was just an informed guess."

"It was very unusual that he should drop dead where he was and then fall down into the water. How did he fall down?" Dr. Joseph told the newspaper.

"It is very, very strange. I think it is suspicious that Maxwell was on the back of the boat and nobody would have heard or seen him."

Middle East News

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Like the first one, it will consist of colourfully decorated cars, motorcycles, camels and horse-drawn carriages that will carry anti-drug banners.

Lectures depicting the dangers of drugs will be delivered and pamphlets and booklets will be distributed.

"It is a pioneering national venture to generate awareness about this fatal poison," said Prince Faisal Ben Fahd, chief of the Presidency of Youth Welfare and Sports, a co-sponsor of the caravan.

The commission said more attractive and appealing display facilities will be introduced during the second caravan. Festivals comprising films, theatrical shows and art exhibitions with drug abuse as the main theme will be held.

Preachers, psychologists, social experts and college professors will give lectures.

"There will be specific areas in which many rounds will have been fired where localised contamination of vehicles and the soil may exceed permissible limits and these could be hazardous to clean-up teams and the local population," the newspaper quoted the report as saying.

"If DU (depleted uranium) gets in the food chain or water system, this will create potential health problems."

An AEA spokesman could not in an interview confirm the existence of the report.

Lebanese resistance new problem for Israel

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press</p

Journalists criticised for speaking to Israeli media at peace conference

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian journalist has been expelled from the Jordanian Writers' Federation (JWF) for allowing himself to be interviewed by the Israeli media during the Middle East peace conference held in Madrid last week.

Another columnist, coming under fire for the same charges, announced Sunday that he was stopping his column until further notice.

Sultana Hattab, a columnist at the Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i and the former chief editor of Sawt Al Shabab, and Tawfiq Abu Bakr of Al Dustour had also come under criticism from the Jordan Writers' Society, of which they are not members.

The decision to expel Mr. Hattab was taken Sunday, according to the deputy chief of the JWF, Dihdih Rifa'i.

"Mr. Hattab's membership has been withdrawn and he is no longer a member of the federation as of Sunday," Mr. Rifa'i was quoted as saying. "This is a moral punishment for Mr. Hattab for his contacts with Israel," he told the Associated Press.

What remained unclear was whether Mr. Hattab was indeed a member of the federation, which had faded into the background after the Jordan Writers' Society reemerged as part of the democratization process under way in Jordan.

The "federation was set up as an alternative to the 'society' in 1988 after the then government headed by Zaid Rifai suspended the latter, which was perceived to be dominated by leftist writers."

The society was revived in early 1990 when the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran lifted the suspension. Lost in the bargain was the influence exerted by the JWF. Apparently, Mr. Hattab was considered a member by the JWF since he did not become a member of the revived Jordan Writers' Society.

Connected by the Jordan Times, Mr. Hattab declined direct comment on the JWF's decision. "I would not like to make any comment now," he said. However, he added, "I am continuing my column in Al Ra'i and I can defend myself." Mr. Hattab's daily column has been absent from the newspaper over the past two weeks.

Information Minister Mahoud Al Sharif said the ministry had no plan whatsoever to interfere in the matter, although he described it as "political" in nature.

"It is an independent union and it is free to do what it decides under its laws and procedures," Mr. Sharif told the Jordan Times. "The Ministry of Information has nothing to do with it and does not plan to interfere in the matter."

Mr. Sharif said Mr. Hattab had contacted him complaining that the was not a member of the JWF. "If that is indeed the case, I hope the federation has taken into consideration the proper procedures," the minister said.

The controversy started when Mr. Hattab, who was among the Jordanian media team attending the Madrid conference, was interviewed by Israel Television.

The interview was seen by many Jordanian writers, both leftist and rightist, as violating the code of conduct which calls for shunning all contacts with the Israeli media.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Produce exports JD 8.88m in October

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of vegetables and fruits in October stood at 31,200 tonnes with an estimated cost of about JD 8.88 million, according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO). Vegetables constituted about 93.5 per cent of the total amount of the kingdom's agricultural exports, bringing about JD 8.38 million in hard currency into the country. Exports of vegetables and fruits in October dropped by about 6,500 tonnes compared to September, and an increase of about 12,900 tonnes compared to October, 1990. The AMO said 43.6 per cent of the exports went to Iraq, 24.1 per cent to the United Arab Emirates, 13.4 per cent to Saudi Arabia, 12.1 per cent to Bahrain, 6.4 per cent to Qatar and 0.3 per cent to Kuwait.

JD 10m for agriculture and village roads

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Housing and Public Works Saad Hayel Al Srour has said that the ministry has allocated JD 10 million in the 1992 budget for agricultural and village roads. At a meeting with directors of public works at the various governorates, Mr. Srour said the amount will be divided equally between agricultural and village roads. He noted that the amount will be distributed among the various governorates.

Exhibition opens of maps, photos

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein Sunday opened an exhibition of air and space maps and photographs organised by the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre in cooperation with Yarmouk University's Public Relations Department. The four-day exhibition, held at Yarmouk University, includes maps, samples produced by traditional and modern techniques, digital maps on water, soil, buildings, terrain, roads and public services, and topographic, geological and touristic maps. The exhibition also includes advanced equipment used for survey and aerial photography.

Kabriti receives French delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabriti Sunday received the director of the Social and Humanitarian Sciences Department at the French Foreign Ministry and members of a team from the French Archaeology Institute on the Middle East. Mr. Kabriti thanked the French government for its continuous support of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and briefed them on the ministry's projects.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is greeted by a patient at a family planning centre. Princess Basma Sunday toured various centres and inspected the services they provide (Petra photo)

Princess tours family planning clinics

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday met the Jordan Family Planning Society (JFPS) president and society officials and discussed means of promoting family planning services in Jordan.

JFPS President Anwar Hadid briefed the princess on the society's programmes and activities over the coming five years.

Princess Basma urged Mr. Hadid and his team to organise more seminars to help spread awareness among members of the public about the need for family planning.

ing and called on the society to help offer family planning services to the public.

The princess said the society would be providing a beneficial service for the whole Jordanian family through its programmes and would help the country achieve positive results.

Mr. Hadid said that the society's services are offered through eight clinics, three of which are located in Amman. The others are in Irbid, Zarqa, Madaba, Salt and Aqaba in addition to mobile clinics in remote villages and rural and bedouin areas of Jordan.

Diplomats say Saudi ambassador to Jordan to return next week

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammad Fahd Al Isa will be returning within days to Jordan as Riyadh's anger against pro-Iraqi Arab parties gradually abates, Arab diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition they not be named, attributed the development to the necessary coordination among Arabs involved in the peacemaking process with Israel. But they cautioned that the Amman-Riyadh relationship is not likely to be warm for a long time.

Initiated at the U.S.-organised Middle East conference in Madrid, the process involves Jordan as a front party negotiator with Israel, and Saudi Arabia as an observer and key player behind the scenes.

Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yemen, Sudan and Tunisia were perceived to have thrown in their lot with Iraq after President Saddam Hussein sent his forces sweeping through Kuwait in August 1990.

That cost Jordan about \$400 million it used to get annually in aid from Saudi Arabia as well as substantial quantities of petroleum products on easy credit terms. It also brought travel restrictions on Jordanians and a ban on Jordanian vehicles crossing the common border.

Riyadh also expelled some diplomats from the Jordanian embassy, ordering that staff of Jordanian, Iraqi and Yemeni embassies be limited to three, amidst allegations that the diplomatic staff were spying on strategic locations for Iraq.

Chief diplomats were allowed to stay, but Jordanian Ambassador Nasser Al Batayna, like others who did not slip out quietly, remained.

Recently, the edge of sharpness in Saudi editorial criticism of Jordan has eased, and the kingdom lifted the ban on the Jordanian vehicles transits in October.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal also went to

Artist uses intifada as theme to depict Palestinian nationalism

By Ica Wabeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The intifada, the Palestinian uprising, represents different things for different people. For some, it is a way to express their political views. For some it is a means to vent their anger and frustration at the Israeli occupation of almost a quarter of a century.

For artist Ibrahim Al Shalaby, the intifada provides a theme for his canvases which depict an upsurge in Palestinian nationalism and pride.

By using images of the intifada and the mono print and collage or mixed media and collage techniques, the artist depicts the struggle of Palestinian youth against the occupier. The colours, often blood-red or dark, complement the move and the strokes that create an inner sensation of movement, of tormented souls trying to assert a denied identity.

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence.

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalization of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said "the essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.



The Target

Calligraphy, mostly of verses from Arab poetry or the Koran, is strongly represented, in almost every canvas. The writing is usually reinforcing the message conveyed by the painting and is omnipresent.

An interesting symbolism is carried by the eagle. This powerful bird is alternately representing the "awakening" of a Palestinian entity or the enemy: two doves (the victim) are savagely gripped in its talons and blood is dripping. Not all of Mr. Shalaby's paintings, however, represent lost hope. The artist allows the prospect of a better future to pervade in at least one of his works.

Behind an enclosure of barbed wire, a hopeful woman

with both hands raised looks at the village in the distance determined to return, convinced of a final victory and justice.

In the words of the artist who presented his works, "As long as there is (exists) a Palestinian baby, the Palestinian flag will fly high," embodying the resilience of a people with hopes, aspirations, traditions, entity unaffected by vicissitudes and years of defeat.

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Behind an enclosure of barbed wire, a hopeful woman

The five-day workshop, which is organised by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), is attended by delegates from Jordan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Yemen, Lebanon and Libya.

The workshop will be concerned with the natural resources upon which agricultural production depends such as soil, water and natural vegetation. In drier areas, these resources are limited and easily degraded, according to ICARDA. Improving these areas, while at the same time avoiding such degradation, requires the development of more appropriate systems of management.

Dry lands rely mainly on fluctuating levels of rain water, and the soil is exposed to erosion either through natural forces or by man's activities, said Mr. Arabi in an address to the meeting, adding "Regional Workshop on Dry Land Resources Management."

Mr. Arabi appealed to all concerned authorities and farmers to help conserve agricultural resources through proper use and in a manner that would not harm the interests of the future generations.

According to ICARDA regional programme coordinator Dr. Naseer Haddad, focus is being placed on management methods in order to safeguard agricultural resources which are now endangered in the semi-arid regions of western Asia and north Africa.

In view of the given situation, the countries of the region have no alternative but to protect the arable land to ensure production of food, Dr. Haddad said. He added that in these countries, every effort should be made to stop soil erosion and to employ appropriate agricultural techniques, some of which can be provided by ICARDA.

Participants in the workshop will present case studies for their countries. Each case study will deal with particular problems of resource management in a dry area.

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AGENTS & REPRESENTATIVE WORLD WIDE

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After the conference

THERE ARE reasonable grounds for feeling upbeat about the results of the Madrid peace conference. For starters, the international climate is conducive for conflict resolution. The recent peace accord on Cambodia is only the latest example of this new international order. Secondly, the prestige and reputation of Washington is on the rise after President George Bush and his administration has made it a point to broker this latest peace initiative to resolve the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict in all its dimensions. With the U.S. presidential elections only months away, President Bush needs a victory in his efforts to settle the Middle East conflict, especially in the wake of the dramatic decline in his national popularity in recent weeks. The U.S. economy is anything but picking up as once thought and the president cannot afford a defeat over the Madrid parley, especially after investing heavily in it. Thirdly, the Arab parties have grown sophisticated and mature in playing out the game of negotiations with Israel. Gone are the days when the Arab countries can be blamed for derailing the resolution of the Palestinian case and the disputes that ensued therefrom on the Arab-Israeli level. There is a general recognition now in the Arab World that their aspirations and objectives cannot be achieved in one giant leap but rather through a process that is durable and well grounded. In this vein, the art of negotiation has been accepted and acknowledged as entailing making concessions on matters that are inconsequential to the basic aims of the Arab side. Witness in this regard the flexibility of the Palestinian side on the formal role of the PLO and the overall Arab consent not to spell out in advance all the fine terms and objectives of the peace talks. Another example of this new Arab perspective is their concession not to make ironclad links between the various stages and topics of the talks even though there is still a genuine conviction in concluding a comprehensive peace treaty with Israel that is all encompassing in its contents and aspects.

In this regard, one cannot ignore the metamorphosis in the Israeli body politic. Only a few weeks ago, the bulk of the Israeli public opinion was sceptical about the viability of the peace efforts and less resolute to make any meaningful concessions for their promotion. All of a sudden the fervour of the prospects of peace have hit the hearts and minds of many Israelis and many tens of thousands of them took to the streets of Tel Aviv recently in support of the Madrid peace parley. One can presume therefore that the mainstream Israeli perspective is in favour of giving peace a chance as Israelis are also sick and tired of seemingly permanent conditions of tension and armed conflicts in the region. Given a chance between Arab lands or peace, many Israelis would naturally opt for the latter.

Yet there are also logical basis for pessimism. It is axiomatic that for any negotiations between belligerents to come to fruition, there must be at least a semblance of balance in their bargaining powers. Admittedly, the Arabs' bargaining chips have diminished in recent months to an all time low. Neither the Arab state of affairs nor the disappearance of the Soviet bloc from the international power politics would sugar well for the Arab side. Even the most recent revelation that Israel possesses no less than three hundred nuclear bombs cannot but render the Arab bargaining position that much more vulnerable. In the logic of things, the Arab parties would be expected to make more and more concessions as a reflection of their diminishing power regionally and internationally. This state of affairs prompted many observers to conclude that the timing of the peace talks is not favourable to the Arab side and is bound to be reflected negatively as the process of negotiations continue in the course of the months ahead.

On balance, however, the least that could emerge from the impending negotiations is some kind of respite for the Arab side as well. The Arab World needs time to heal the wounds and pick up the pieces. The international climate may change just as abruptly as it had in the past few months. Not that the Arab parties would forsake any genuine peace terms if the opportunity presented itself. On the contrary they should seize upon every window of opportunity to conclude an honourable peace treaty with Israel provided it is just and durable. But if the worse comes to the worst, the peace process would create new conditions as it proceeds forward during which time the Arab strategic power may become augmented and the world scene rectified.

Our negotiations therefore have a formidable task ahead of them. They are entitled to our support and appreciation. By noting that the country and its people are solidly behind them would naturally boost their determination and skills to obtain for all of us a more peaceful era in which present and future generations can live with pride and satisfaction.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday called on Jordanians to give attention to the real requirements of democracy while also paying attention to the ongoing efforts to arrive at peace in the Middle East. The paper said national unity is bound to bolster the process of democracy and it is strengthened by social justice. The paper referred to the recent price hikes and said they caused disproportionate changes in the fabric of society, especially among limited and medium-income groups who have been suffering under the continued wave of soaring cost of living in the country. In the paper's view, the question of the cost of living was connected to the peace process because, it said, there can be no point in achieving a just and durable peace while the country is plagued by chronic issues like citizens being dismissed from their jobs for political reasons and soaring prices.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily voiced strong criticism of the government's recent measures of hiking prices of essential commodities. By doing so, the government has gone back on a promise it gave to Parliament never to increase prices without first consulting with Parliament, said Salah Abdul Samad. The writer said that the government could have waited for Parliament to reconvene for its regular session early next month to consult the deputies about its procedures. What is really surprising about the move, the writer said, is to see the government raising the prices of such basic commodities as cigarettes, tissue paper and sanitary tissue, considering that these items are non-essentials, and decreasing the prices of rare fruits, and nuts that only the very rich can buy. He said that the government failed to reduce the prices of such items as cooking oil or sardines, consumed by a majority of people in Jordan, thus forcing the limited-income groups to face continued waves of soaring prices as their income remains unchanged.

LOS ANGELES — Imagine a Middle East peace conference in which tough proponents of the Arab and Israeli causes find themselves transformed by meetings with one another. What if they are soon enjoying cordial dinners and kissing each other on the cheek — developing ties they did not think were possible?

Picture a conference where a former radical Palestinian says at a closing dinner: "I have learned so much. I need to learn much more." And an Israeli rightist comments, with tears in his eyes, "The Arabs and Israelis understand the Middle East, not you Americans and Soviets."

You don't believe it?

Well, this did not happen in Madrid, but it did occur in Moscow a week ago when Arab, Israeli, Western and Soviet experts met under the auspices of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation of the University of California and the U.S.-Canada Institute in Moscow to discuss Middle East initiatives. We were the meeting's co-chairmen. There were no idealists at these sessions, which consisted not of official negotiators but of scholars simulating peace talks. In Palestinian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli dialogues, the disagreements sounded like debates of government officials. But the chemistry worked and incredible events followed.

Because the Soviet and American sponsors were in complete

agreement, their cooperation was contagious for both Arabs and Israelis.

The Arabs and Israelis were forced to communicate in ways impossible during the cold war, when it was tempting to play Washington and Moscow against each other.

The experts in Moscow agreed the new Arab-Israeli peace process should begin with a declaration of principles on procedures, covering matters such as the commitment to negotiate continuously and to deal in good faith. They stressed that once agreement was reached on procedures it could create a precedent for later accords, averting the need to start all over again.

Arab delegates argued in effect: "Don't insult us. Don't

just deal as Americans and Israelis always do with only technicalities or tactics."

To take advantage of the early positive atmosphere, participants were encouraged to take on difficult issues such as arms control, economic cooperation and negotiating procedures.

Then the shocks began. The Arabs and Israelis took a common approach on specific issues and opposed the stands of the great powers.

For example, the Middle East participants argued that foreign aid was critical to the peace process and that economic reforms could not be pressed too strongly during the delicate adjustment period — positions at odds with the U.S., European and Soviet

view. Middle East players also voiced support for a moratorium on arms shipments and new arms sales to their region for the duration of the talks.

All participants agreed that talks could succeed only if difficult issues such as one nuclear weapon, the status of Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organization's role were deferred until agreements had been reached on other matters.

Are these meetings relevant to Madrid?

Yes, because they were attended by former generals and diplomats, well-placed academics and journalists with close ties to their governments. The Moscow sessions demonstrated that good faith, good cheer, good will and work on practical issues can make

qualified, mostly well educated professionals, and had the support both of their own community as well as the PLO leadership in Tunis. The combination, for example, of Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi is one example. He is from a well-known family in Jerusalem whose father was a war hero in 1948 and who has spent many years in Israeli jails. She is an articulate Western-trained university professor who was quite involved in grassroots politics. Similarly, the combination between Dr. Abdol Shafiq, a respected physician from Gaza, and Samiha Kanaan, a hardened activist who spent 13 years in Israeli jails, worked very well. While Mr. Husseini and Mrs. Ashrawi had a special relationship with Mr. Baker, the latter two were the only Palestinians who met with President George Bush when he came to Madrid.

— They were proud despite their weakness:

Arguably the weakest delegation at the Madrid conference was the Palestinians. They were invited to the conference with a host of restrictions. They were forced to come to the conference in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. No PLO official was allowed to be on the delegation, no one from Jerusalem was to be allowed into the Royal Palace and they were told that if they said they were a PLO delegation, the Israeli would walk out. Palestinians had no state, no government, no army, and no institution. But they had a just cause and they were not ready to throw in the towel. They succeeded in turning their weakness into strength. Any special status given to them at the conference was interpreted as a victory. They received equal time with the rest, drove in motorcades, held their heads high and spoke about the only thing they knew best — their own problem. Here was a group of Palestinians who were speaking for themselves, from their own experience with the human and personal passion that no one else could match. No wonder they quickly became the darlings of the international press. After all the world loves the underdog.

The secret of the Palestinians' success in Madrid

By Daoud Kuttab

THERE IS an almost universal consensus that the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference in Madrid scored clear success. From editorials in the world press to the private praise of U.S. officials, including Mr. Baker himself, there is agreement that the Palestinians came out the winners. Even Henry Kissinger, known for a pro-Arab position, has said publicly that Palestinians did well in Madrid. What are the reasons of this success? And why were these pro-PLO Palestinians more successful than their own PLO leaders?

— They were new to the rest of the world:

The world knew all the speakers at the Madrid conference except the Palestinian speakers and spokespersons. No one was surprised at the Syrian position or the European position or the Egyptian position. They all repeated their well-known positions. The world even knew Arafat and it would have been difficult for the PLO leader to surprise them. The Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories was new. The world has known the Palestinians as stone throwers and have witnessed their popular resistance to the Israeli occupation. But as Edward Said, the Palestinian professor at Columbia University, always said, the world has not heard the Palestinian "narrative." Now a largely unknown group of Palestinians from the occupied territories who were approved by the PLO and whom the Israelis couldn't reject were relating that narrative. It was not surprising that the delegates to the conference as well as the rest of the world were listening very carefully to hear what the "people's delegation" had to say.

— They spoke a different language:

Not only did the Palestinians in Madrid speak English without too much of an accent, but what they said was also different. The Palestinian speeches read by Dr. Haidar Abdul

Shafiq and the press statements made by Hanan Ashrawi were new. They were void of the usual rhetoric and ideology that has previously resembled official Palestinian statements. Issues were dealt with in a clear and unambiguous way. Israeli recognition was not conditional and neither were the Palestinian aspirations for statehood alongside Israel. The status of Palestinians under occupation was mentioned as facts rather than as part of an attempt to score propaganda points. Finally the Palestinian delegation addressed the Israeli people, praised the courage of Israeli peace supporters and tried to reach out to their enemies.

— They were united:

A qualitative change has taken place among Palestinian radicals and opposition groups. Palestinians are speaking in one tongue and without double talk. And instead of the usual incitement and threats, differences of opinion leading up to the conference and during it were expressed in a civilised manner. This change allowed the Palestinian delegates and spokespersons to speak on behalf of the majority of Palestinians rather than be guided by the lowest denominator of the people — a situation that has in the past allowed small groups to have a veto power over the wishes of the majority.

— They were both qualified and credible:

For far too long qualified Palestinians had no credibility among the Palestinian public and credible Palestinians were not qualified to speak and perform in an international parley. This was often the case with some PLO officials and with Palestinians in the occupied territories who had paid the political price of imprisonment and other forms of punishment by the Israelis but were unable to handle themselves in a press conference or in front of a hostile audience. The Palestinian delegation successful and creatively combined these two attributes. The delegates were

Shamir's call to Palestinians — a licence to perpetuate genocide

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's excessive "humanity" expressed in his call to the Palestinian Arabs, in the Madrid conference: "... stop exposing your children to danger by sending them to throw bombs and stones at soldiers and civilians," did not startle or influence any of his audience. Many people, especially well informed journalists and human rights activists, were overwhelmed and bewildered. Not because the call only implies racism, and dehumanisation of the Palestinian people, but because it implies demand from the international community to acquiesce his perpetuation of his wrongs and crimes of killing more Palestinian children. Regardless of his racist insinuations — with connotations of cowardice and sub-human parents who send their children to throw bombs while they stay at home, as Israeli spokesmen declare — Mr. Shamir's call is a declaration of intent to continue his genocide against the Palestinian people's future — their children.

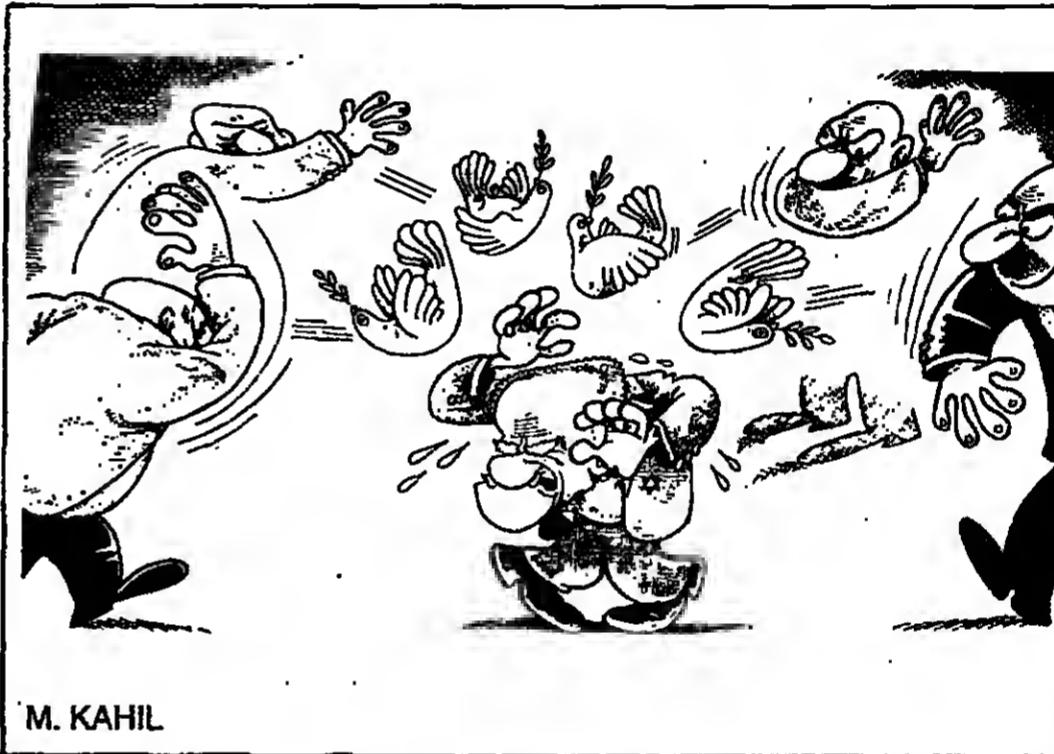
Zionist writer and Nobel prize laureate, Elie Wiesel calls upon peoples to change their perception of the holocaust: "We should not think of 6,000,000 victims as the holocaust because that becomes a statistic; we should think of one small child and of that child's death; that is the holocaust."

The real question is how the Jews everywhere had permitted the government and its prime minister to adhere to the policy of killing, maiming, breaking bones, gassing, blinding, crippling one small child, as Elie Wiesel said, but scores of them, for the last four consecutive years.

This is not a subjective piece of propaganda as Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, did in Madrid. Rather it is an objective conclusion reached by different human rights organisations.

It is enough, we believe, to cite part of a field study, singled out by the author of the report, published by many human rights associations, including Israeli, European and American, to prove the genocide committed by the Israeli government against Palestinian children.

Mr. Shamir's call in Madrid exacerbates our fear that his purpose, by bringing his point before millions of people is to camouflage his predetermined intent to accelerate the genocide with an



M. KAHIL

international acquiescence.

A field study, funded by the Ford Foundation, done by the American "Save the Children Organisation" and published by the Swedish twin organisation Radda Barnen, Swedish Save the Children, states: "Researchers for this report have documented indiscriminate beating, tear gassing and shooting of children at home or just outside the house, playing in the street, sitting in the classroom or going to the store for groceries. Children were also beaten, tear-gassed, and shot for flashing V-for-Victory signs, shouting nationalist slogans, taunting and jeering at soldiers, doodling Palestinian flags in school notebooks, hanging flags from poles, violating curfew, or participating in demonstrations, whether stone-throwing or not."

Most of the children killed by gunfire had been shot in the head or neck. Nearly a fifth of the children sustained multiple gunshots and were shot from behind. Almost all of the children shot dead were directed — not random or ricochet — gunfire; only one child was killed by a ricochet bullet. Of the estimated 50,000 to 63,000 injured children requiring medical treatment in the first two years of the intifada, nearly a third of the children were aged ten years and under. Child gunshot injuries increased in the second half of the first year by 507 per cent. The second full year showed a 491 per cent increase over the first. Gunshot injuries sustained by children aged ten years and under increased by 1,400 per cent in the second year. ... Nearly a quarter of the 159 child deaths recorded in the first two years of the intifada were a result of tear-gas exposure. Thousands of other children required medical treatment after exposure to gas.

... Records were collected for 7,107 beaten children and report estimates that 23,600 to 29,900 children required medical treatment for their beating injuries in the first two years of the intifada. According to a sample of the 3,460 records studied in the first year, nearly a third of the beaten children were aged ten years and under; one fifth of these young children were aged five and under. Over four fifths of the children requiring treatment

had been beaten on their heads and upper bodies and at multiple locations. Hospital records show that children suffered a disproportionate number of the total number of serious (head/neck) beating injuries treated. Nearly a third of the children sustained broken bones, including multiple fractures.

Research found that assistance to the injured and dying children was provided by the army in only two of the 93 documented cases in which medical care was sought. Nearly two fifths of all fatally injured children seeking emergency medical treatment were obstructed or delayed by direct military interference, shooting, or curfew. In over four fifths of the gunshot cases in which the mortally wounded child sought emergency treatment, access to medical care was obstructed or delayed by the army. In nearly a fifth of these cases, the wounded child was taken into detention and died in military custody. Field investigations revealed that injured children were almost never provided with prompt and proper care and evacuation to the hospital by soldiers. Obstruction of access to medical care was frequent. Serious injury not only failed to confer immunity, as under inter-

national law, but was often implausible and appear not to have been based upon inquiry. This raises the serious questions about the credibility of official reports.

Whose is the responsibility for permitting this horrendous distortion of history which has been going without serious attempt to diffuse the truth? Who is responsible for permitting the Israeli distortion of collective destruction of 470 Palestinian villages and towns as the "purity of Israeli arms"; the oppressive occupation as the "benign administration of the territories"; the characterisation of legitimate resistance to occupation, stipulated by the United Nations Charter, as terrorism? The call is not an invitation for a peaceful and just settlement of the conflict; rather it is a call of reconciliation, perpetuating wrongs and crimes, coming out of historical, tribal, and the excitability of excessive myths.

Abdul Jawad Saleh is the deported mayor of Al Bireh. He also served in the PLO Executive Committee. He is a researcher and lecturer on topics related to Palestinian affairs. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

In Moscow, a Mideast peace conference that worked

By Andrei Shoumikhin and Steven L. Spiegel

LOS ANGELES — Imagine a Middle East peace conference in which tough proponents of the Arab and Israeli causes find themselves transformed by meetings with one another. What if they are soon enjoying cordial dinners and kissing each other on the cheek — developing ties they did not think were possible?

Picture a conference where a former radical Palestinian says at a closing dinner: "I have learned so much. I need to learn much more." And an Israeli rightist comments, with tears in his eyes, "The Arabs and Israelis understand the Middle East, not you Americans and Soviets."

You don't believe it?

Well, this did not happen in Madrid, but it did occur in Moscow a week ago when Arab, Israeli, Western and Soviet experts met under the auspices of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation of the University of California and the U.S.-Canada Institute in Moscow to discuss Middle East initiatives.

We were the meeting's co-chairmen. There were no idealists at these sessions, which consisted of official negotiators but of scholars simulating peace talks. In Palestinian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli dialogues, the disagreements sounded like debates of government officials. But the chemistry worked and incredible events followed.

The experts in Moscow agreed the new Arab-Israeli peace process should begin with a declaration of principles on procedures, covering matters such as the commitment to negotiate continuously and to deal in good faith. They stressed that once agreement was reached on procedures it could create a precedent for later accords, averting the need to start all over again.

Arab delegates argued in effect: "

Negotiators get jubilant welcome

(Continued from page 1)
pushed through photographers to hug her tearful mother when the bus stopped at a checkpoint.

"I'm overwhelmed, absolutely overwhelmed. It's a grand homecoming," said Dr. Ashrawi, who won praise for her eloquent presentation of the Palestinian cause in Madrid.

"After Madrid we have to start a new phase. We have to end the occupation and start looking at us as equal human beings," he said.

"In Madrid they wanted to impose conditions to make us appear as representatives of something less than a people," Mr. Huseini said in Jerusalem.

"But we achieved the unity of the Palestinian people," he told the crowd.

The Palestinians attended the talks in a joint delegation with Jordan to circumvent Israel's refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The team which met the Israelis was led by Gaza doctor Haidar Abdul Shafi who was greeted by 5,000 supporters with olive branches when he returned to Gaza City.

Delegation Ghassan Al Khatib said he expected the next round, in which Israel will hold separate talks with Syria, Lebanon and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to take place from 20 to 25.

"Our formal position is that these talks should stay in Madrid but we are willing to discuss any other compromise if it fits with our position," he told reporters.

Israel wants the talks to alternate with the Jewish state and Arab countries.

The United States favours Washington as a venue, but Dr. Ashrawi said on Saturday Palestinians would only agree if the United States improved relations with the PLO and gave them the chance to respond to the Jewish lobby and Congress.

Chechens

(Continued from page 1)

"We are now preparing for the coming stage, our tactics and agenda are going to be declared at the right time and place," Mr. Khatib said. "We are preparing at the strategic political level and at the technical level."

Kaddoumi

(Continued from page 1)

Progressive Front leadership "condemned Israel's attempts to obstruct the peace conference by manoeuvring and avoiding discussing the essential issues upon which the conference was held," one official said.

Syria wanted to discuss Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories at the face-to-face talks with Israel. Israel was interested in recognition through normal relations.

The meeting of the National Progressive Front Saturday night said the aim of Syria's position was to serve the interests of the Arab Nation.

The front is dominated by the Baath Party of President Hafez Al Assad.

Gulf diplomats said most Arab states will attend the multilateral stage of the Middle East peace negotiations with Israel that is widely expected to be boycotted by Syria.

"They are going with Syria or without her," one diplomat said.

Damascus has told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, architect of the Madrid peace conference, it would not enter the regional talks unless Israel showed a willingness to withdraw from occupied Arab land, including Syria's Golan Heights.

The next negotiating phase is supposed to bring Israel together with other states in the region to discuss issues such as arms control, water resources and economic development and is viewed by Washington as an essential ingredient for peace.

to the region's capital, Grozny, after it was flown to Ankara, Turkey, to protest Mr. Yeltsin's decree.

All but one of the 171 passengers and crew were released unharmed, the Soviet news agency TASS reported. Authorities were investigating the incident, but the hijackers' exact whereabouts were not clear.

Minister to review new tax

(Continued from page 1)

several other members of the 80-man Lower House of Parliament had extended moral support and pledged to raise the industrialists' complaint when Parliament convenes in December.

Sheikh Abu Zant, a fiery orator who linked the industrialists' grievances with the Western-led coalition's war against Iraq and the ongoing Middle East peace process, suggested that a committee be set up of industrialists and Parliament members to press the campaign against the consumer tax as well as other issues concerning Jordanian industries.

A representative group of the businessmen Saturday delivered a petition to Prime Minister Masri, outlining the problems caused by the new tax and collection system and urging him to reconsider the decision.

Even if there was no way out of the consumer tax, the industrialists are to continue to press their opposition to what one of them called a set of "draconian measures" by the government to collect the tax.

"How can we accept that a government employee controls life at our factory?" asked Abdul Karim Zalloum. According to the measures, a government employee will be stationed at the various industrial units whose production is covered under the

consumer tax. The official will carry one key to the factory, which will have a two-key lock, and ensure that no products leave the premises without the manufacturer paying the consumer tax.

Factories which produce non-taxable as well as taxable goods should separate the manufacturing units.

"In essence it means that if the government customs official is not well and cannot attend his duties then we have to stop work at the factory," said Mr. Zalloum.

"If I would like to carry a packet of sweets home to my children then I have to account for it to the government employee. Isn't this ridiculous?" asked the businessman in summarising the sentiments of the 250 or so industrialists gathered Saturday.

Among other measures included in the collection system is a stipulation that the factory should provide a bank guarantee to the government that the due tax will be remitted to the treasury if any goods originally destined for exports are sold locally.

Mr. Jardaneh indicated that the government was also willing to discuss the entire issue. "The mechanism to collect the consumer tax can also be discussed," he said. "We will not do anything which is against the interests of Jordanian industries."

New clinic in Deir Alla

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — A Health Minister Mamoud Al Abbadi toured a number of regions in the Irbid and Bani Kinaneh region and the northern Jordan Valley areas.

At the Deir Alla district town of Maiddi, the minister opened a health department and heard from the director of health services about the situation in the region, which is inhabited by 45,000 people.

Dr. Abbadi met the heads of local councils and local residents and discussed Health Ministry programmes. He said that the Maiddi comprehensive health centre will be transformed into a hospital in the coming few months.

Among the main problems facing the Health Ministry is to find reliable cadres of doctors, specialists and nurses.

Ministry role in care for disabled examined

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the role of the Health Ministry in providing care for the disabled organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund's Special Education Section was held here Sunday.

Also addressing the symposium was director of the Early Disability Diagnosis Centre, Osama Badran, who reviewed the services provided by the Health Ministry. Dr. Badran noted in particular the performance of the national immunisation programme, saying that this programme has ensured 94 per cent immunization coverage against child diseases. He added that the ministry was considering a proposal for including the rubella (germe measles) vaccine in the national immunization programme.

He called for streamlining all efforts in the areas of health, education and social services in order to provide the best services for the handicapped. He noted that the ultimate goal the ministry seeks to achieve is to integrate the disabled into society and to ensure their active participation in the social and economic life of their communities.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres throughout Jordan, thus covering one third of the target group. He also said that the school health teams cover 97 per cent of school students throughout the country. He noted that these teams have detected 6,541 cases of disability.

The director of the Ministry's Health Insurance Department said that the ministry provides free medical insurance cards for every eligible family with an income of less than JD 600. The number of those covered by this scheme is 120,000. Dr. Khatib noted that the law on the disabled recommends that free medical insurance be provided to the severely handicapped.

He added that some disabled persons can work and earn their living and as much are not entitled to get such free cards.



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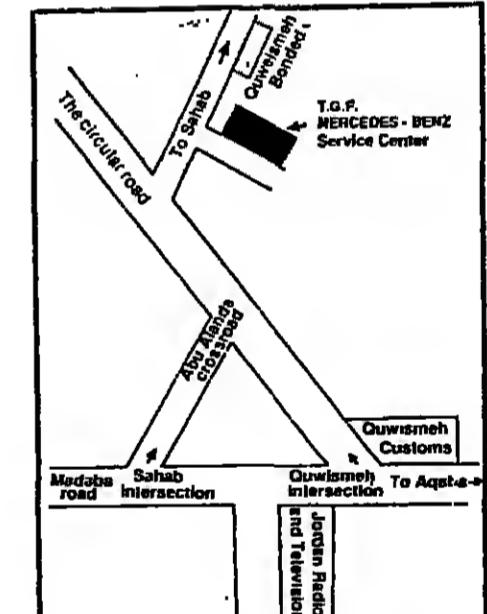
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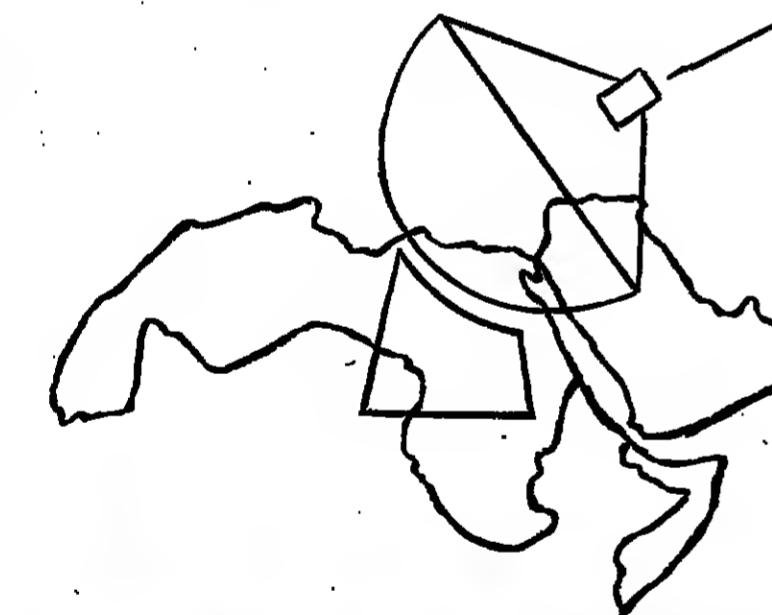
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Sports

Ito beats Yamaguchi in figure skating competition

ALBERTVILLE, France (AP) — Midori Ito of Japan completed an improvised one in the last 10 seconds to overtake world champion Kristi Yamaguchi and win the Lalique trophy Saturday, a winter Olympic prep event.

Yamaguchi, who led a American medal sweep at March's World Championships in Munich, Germany, led after the original programme but fell once during her free skate portion—performed to Spanish music and which counts for two-third of the final score—and finished second.

Later Saturday, three-time world champion Kurt Browning of Canada rallied to win the men's event, beating Soviet Vacheslav Zagorodnik.

He received a perfect mark of 6.0 from one of the nine judges for technical merit. Her programme, which received marks ranging from 5.7 to 5.9, included a very difficult triple axel-double toe loop combination.

"Today's performance was only about 70 per cent of what I was trying for," Ito said. "I still

hope to improve my combination triple jumps."

Nancy Kerrigan of the United States was third, duplicating her finish at the World Championship who she finished behind Yamaguchi and Tonya Harding, who was not entered here.

"I think I was placed where I should have been," Yamaguchi said. "There were a couple of mistakes that should not have been there."

"I am happy with my performance," she said. "If it is good enough for a silver medal here, it was OK."

It's World Championship hopes were set back when she bruised her ribs and fell over a board in two separate accidents in Munich.

"After my bitter experience in the World Championships I had to change the position of my jumps," Ito said.

Alexei Urmanov wooed the men's free skate, but it was His Browning who was able to skate well enough to overtake Zagorodnik, who won Friday's original programme.

Urmanov completed a clean quadruple jump and a fine triple

axel in his programme giving him third overall.

Browning followed his second-best Friday routine with another second-best performance, good enough for victory. He was not spectacular, skating a conservative long programme Saturday with just two triple jumps.

Urmanov completed five triples and the quad.

The Canadian showed the results of a back problem, brought on by an ankle injury.

Several of the top men did not compete in the weekend competition due to injury.

Viktor Petrenko of Soviet Union, twice second to Browning, was absent with a foot problem as was American champion Todd Eldredge, who won a bronze medal at the World Championships.

Last year, Seles beat a pained Navratilova in straight sets and shortly thereafter Navratilova underwent knee surgery. Seles went on to become No. 1 in the world in March 1991, a spot she has surrendered only briefly since to Germany's Steffi Graf.

This year, Seles has lost only five matches, but one was against Navratilova earlier in the year. Seles has won her last two encounters.

Seles, a Yugoslav who lives in the United States, beat the 10th-ranked Maleeva Fragnoire in 55 minutes. She broke the hard-serving native of Bulgaria at 1-all in the first set with deep, corner to corner shots. Maleeva Fragnoire was also broken in the seventh game.

In the second set Maleeva Fragnoire's game crumbled even more. She had 28 unforced errors in the match to 14 for Seles and managed to get in only 48 per cent of her first serves.

"I couldn't get into a good rhythm," Maleeva Fragnoire said.

The victory over McNeil was No. 1,317 for Navratilova, who added to her own record after surpassing Chris Evert's previous standard of f. 309 a month ago in Milan.

Now Navratilova tries to equal Evert's record of 157 tournament titles.

"I know I'm going to break it, even if I have to play the Virginia Slims of Oklahoma," Navratilova

Seles, Navratilova to meet in Oakland final

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Displaying contrasting styles, top-seeded and top-ranked Monica Seles and No. 2 seed Martina Navratilova advanced into the Virginia Slims of California finals, setting up a repeat of last year's title match.

Seles, who turns 18 next month, defeated No. 3 seed Manuela Maleeva Fragnoire of Switzerland 6-2, 6-1 in another awesome display of unrelenting baseline firepower that has no equal in women's tennis.

Navratilova handily defeated Lori McNeil of the United States 6-3, 6-2 to reach her fourth consecutive final on the tour.

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Martina Navratilova

Frankfurt hangs on to lead in Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Ghana international Anthony Yeboah struck a late equaliser to enable Eintracht Frankfurt to draw 1-1 against Karlsruhe and stay top of the German soccer first division.

Striker Yeboah equalised in the 83rd minute after Burkhard Reich stung the Eintracht crowd by thrusting the visitors in the 50th minute.

"The team tried everything to break through Karlsruhe's wall of defence," Frankfurt coach Dragosav Stepanovic said. "But today nothing worked. In the end we had to be content with one point."

Striker Yeboah equalised in the 83rd minute after Burkhard Reich stung the Eintracht crowd by thrusting the visitors in the 50th minute.

Stefan Kuntz put Kaiserslautern in front after 37 minutes and fellow striker Demir Hotic extended the lead in the 62nd minute. Midfielder Uwe Scheir completed the tally two minutes from time.

Gordon's double starts to repay Rangers

LONDON (Agencies) — Dale Gordon quickly repaid part of his £1.2 million (\$2.1 million) transfer fee when he scored twice in Glasgow Rangers' 5-0 thrashing of Dunfermline in his Scottish premier division debut Saturday.

The former Norwich midfielder also laid on two other goals, setting up the first with a perfect cross to Richard Gough after only five minutes.

Almost on the half-hour he slotted home his first from a difficult angle and soon after the

interval he made a fine run down the right before crossing for Mark Hateley to ram the ball into the net.

Ally McCoist put Rangers 4-0 ahead after 61 minutes before Gordon scored his second after cleverly finding empty space and shooting home from a Hateley cross.

It kept Rangers well in the hunt for the league title but they remain one point behind leaders Hearts who squeezed out a 2-1 home win over St Johnstone,

Kasparov wins tie-break

in speed chess tournament

PARIS (R) — World Champion Garry Kasparov defeated Soviet Alexander Khalifman in tie-break in the Speed Chess Masters Tournament to qualify for the quarterfinals.

Both 50-minute games ended in draws, setting up an 11-minute blitz tie-break in which Kasparov was able to smother Khalifman's pieces.

Invigorated by his performance at the Dutch Tilburg tournament last week, his first victory in 1991, Kasparov wants to confirm his superiority in all kinds of chess, classical or fast.

"I can win any match," he told reporters before the Paris tournament.

Rising French star Joel Lautier, 18, was earlier edged out in a tense match against world number four Evgeny Bareev of the Soviet Union.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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SHOW AND TELL

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ A J 5
7
K Q 8 5
♦ Q J 4 2

WEST EAST
A K Q 10 9 ♦ 8 6 4 3 2
A J 10 7 4 A 9
♦ 10 9 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♦ K Q 10 9 8 6 3 2
5
3 2
A K

The bidding:
West North East South

1st Dbl 4 6 ♦
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Signaling is delicate art. At trick one the opening leader's partner usually finds indicates attitude: a high card shows approval of the suit, low suggests that the leader search for greener pastures. Very few experts show count at the first trick except against high-level contracts, where it might be essential to know whether a second round of the suit will live. When dummy shows up with a singleton in the suit led, or where it is clear that declarer cannot hold more than one card in the suit, third hand has the rare opportunity for a suit-preference signal. A high

card in the suit led suggests a switch to the higher of the other two plain suits: the lowest calls for the lower. A low middle card asks for a continuation.

Just how important that can be is illustrated by this hand. West took advantage of the vulnerability to make a light opening bid. North doubled in action we endorse, despite the fact that a better spade would have been preferred, and East upped the ante with his distributional holding. As a result South, with probably the best hand at the table in terms of playing strength, had to act with the auction already in the stratosphere and no good bid available (four no trump would be a takeout for the minors, not ace-asking). So South elected to blust into six spades. In a way, North was too strong—he had the king of the suit he would have really liked.

The crux of the hand came at the very first trick. West led the king of hearts and East had to convince partner to shift to a diamond—anything else would have been fatal to the defense. With the singleton heart in dummy, there was no problem—East dropped the jack under the king, a clear request for a diamond shift rather than a club. West duly obliged, and the defenders had their two tricks in the bag. Down one.

Andy Capp

— LOOK, IT'S EASY TO GIVE IN WHEN YOU'RE IN THE WRONG

— BUT A MAN WHO GIVES IN WHEN HE'S IN THE RIGHT IS... MARRIED

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— AND SO, MY FRIENDS, WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TO PLANT A MEMORIAL SO THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER BLAH BLAH BLAH!

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Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 4 - November 8, 1991)

AMMAN — Trading remained subdued during most of last week's trading sessions. Dealers avoided establishing new positions in view of the prevailing negative dollar sentiment and lack of substantive news items. The widely anticipated Fed interest rate cut finally materialised, surprising markets in its timing but, nevertheless, leaving a muted impact on prices. The U.S. market ended the week marginally higher against the major currencies.

The dollar dropped significantly Monday and Tuesday as bearish sentiment remained strong. Although it rallied briefly during Tuesday's trading hours on news that the USSR might face difficulty in repaying its Western debts, the U.S. currency soon retracted as negative sentiment overpowered safe haven buying. Expectations were unanimous on a dollar interest rate cut by Fed, but diverged on the timing issue. The dollar closed Monday at its lowest against the yen at 129.25 yen to the dollar.

Wednesday took the dollar to its lowest closing levels Friday. Observers maintained that technical considerations lay behind its rise as most traders waited for it to either break through resistance, or fall through support levels before establishing new positions. Trading, therefore, remained subdued as the U.S. currency breached neither resistance at 1.65 marks, nor support at 1.6250 marks to the dollar.

As for this week, market participants await the release of a number of U.S. economic reports to shed more light on the state of the U.S. economic recovery. While most observers are not optimistic about the results, expectations, however, point to range trading in bands of 1.6250-1.6650 marks, and 130.00-131.20 yen, as support at 1.6250 marks is expected to hold.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	1/11/91 Close	2/11/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.7675	1.7647	[0.16%]
Deutsche Mark	1.6445	1.6465	[0.12%]
Swiss Franc	1.4435	1.4535	[0.69%]
French Franc	5.6235	5.6295	[0.11%]
Japanese Yen	129.75	130.38	[0.48%]

* USD per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates:

Currency	1/11/91		2/11/91	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.18	4.75	5.06
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.06	10.37	10.06
Deutsche Mark	8.93	9.25	8.87	9.18
Swiss Franc	7.87	8.18	7.50	7.81
French Franc	8.93	9.18	9.18	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.27	5.65	6.25	5.62

Interest rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 10/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.2067	1.2127
Deutsche Mark	0.4152	0.4175
Swiss Franc	0.4708	0.4732
French Franc	0.1215	0.1221
Japanese Yen*	0.5250	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.3685	0.3703
Swedish Krona	0.1137	0.1143
Italian Lira*	0.0552	0.0555
Belgian Franc	0.02015	0.02025

* per 100

U.N. oil embargo said to cost S.Africa heavily

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Overcoming the effects of a U.N. oil embargo against South Africa has cost that country between \$25 billion and \$30 billion during the last 12 years, according to a report by a U.N. monitoring group.

The group called for the ban to be maintained, pending the adoption of a non-racial democratic constitution, saying: "premature lifting of the oil embargo would be counter-productive for the

peaceful process in South Africa."

The 10-nation intergovernmental group to monitor the supply and shipping of oil and petroleum products to South Africa was set up by the U.N. General Assembly in 1986.

The assembly, whose resolutions are not mandatory, first called for an oil embargo in 1975 and strengthened it in subsequent years.

Brady backs still-lower U.S. interest rates

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has said that he favoured still lower interest rates to spur the sagging American economy.

"I think they can continue to come down," Mr. Brady said of interest rates on a television news programme after the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, cut key short-term rates to levels not seen since the 1970s.

Mr. Brady indicated, however, that there was "some disagreement" on further rate cuts among senior economic advisers to President George Bush.

"Nobody can say for sure" which way the economy, the world's biggest, is heading now, he said. "But I think that lower interest rates, which would mean lower home (mortgage) payments for Americans and lower credit card charges, make sense to me."

Asked if he was confident the economy would avoid slipping back into the recession which took hold in July 1990, Mr. Brady said nobody ever knew for sure which way the economy was going "and nobody can say for sure now."

The government said last month the U.S. economy grew at a 2.4 per cent annual rate in the third quarter, technically ending a year of recession.

But subsequent reports on industrial production, housing starts and new car sales have indicated the recovery was faltering as of last month.

Because governors are becoming increasingly reluctant to ask for tax increases, Mr. Scheppeach

into an election year, the central bank Wednesday lowered its trend-setting discount rate a half a percentage point to 4.5 per cent, its lowest level in 18 years.

The governors' report and a companion survey by the National Association of State Budget Officers offered this evidence:

— 30 states reported that tax collections in fiscal 1991, which ended on June 30 in most states, fell below estimates on which their budgets had been based. Twenty-nine states had to reconvene their legislatures to cut already enacted budgets by a cumulative \$7.5 billion.

General-fund spending, which covers most major programmes, grew by 4 per cent in 1991, compared with an average of eight per cent per year in the 1980s.

— 31 states raised taxes totalling \$15 billion for the current fiscal year, more than one-third of the increase coming from sales taxes. Taxes were raised \$10.3 billion in 26 states in fiscal 1991.

— End-of-year budget balances, a sign of state economic health, dropped to their lowest point since 1983. The balances averaged 1.5 per cent of spending in 1991; 1.9 per cent is forecast for 1992, assuming economic recovery.

Even after the recession ends, Mr. Scheppeach said, the costs of medicare — a federal-state programme of medical care for the poor — and penal systems are likely to continue their rapid growth. Those programmes now take almost 20 cents of every

dollar spent by the states.

Medicare spending is driven up by federal rules increasing eligibility for the programme, while spending for prison construction and other corrections projects often are mandated by the courts.

— The share of state spending dedicated to medicare has increased from 10.2 per cent to 13.6 per cent of state budgets during the last five years," Mr. Scheppeach said. Costs of the programme have grown at least 20 per cent in each of the last two years.

Medicare has replaced higher education as the second largest state spending programme, behind elementary and secondary education.

As have other economic reports, the survey found the recession has hit hardest in the east.

But as the period of no growth or slow growth continues, the report said, more states will fill the pinch.

"The bottom line is that 1992 is going to continue to be a very difficult year for states — perhaps the most difficult in the last decade," it concluded.



Nicholas Brady

Sudanese pound hits all-time low on rumours of further devaluation

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese pound plunged to an all-time low against the dollar Sunday on rumours that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) wanted a further devaluation.

The government is likely to resist, arguing that the measures would further impoverish the Sudanese people, already among the poorest in the world.

But Sudan badly needs balance of payment support from the fund. An IMF agreement could also unlock credits from the international community.

The country owes more than \$13 billion, about \$2 billion of them in arrears to the fund itself.

The IMF has not given Sudan credit since 1984, when it declared Sudan ineligible for loans because of the arrears and the government's failure to adopt an acceptable reform package.

The fund declared Sudan bankrupt in 1986 and last year it opened the way for its expulsion by declaring it uncooperative.

The government is expected to argue that it cannot cut expenditure because of the war in the south, which is costing Khartoum more than 11 million pounds (\$730,000) a day. It says the war with the southern rebels was forced upon it.

Survey explodes Japanese work ethic as myth

SYDNEY (R) — A major survey of attitudes in Europe, the United States and Asia has found that Japanese workers feel the most dissatisfied with various aspects of employment, particularly their wages and working conditions.

TASS news agency quoted First Deputy Economic Minister Alexander Troshin as saying the worst scenario was possible if squabbling over an economic cooperation agreement between the republics dragged on into the second quarter of 1992.

In that case, gross national product (GNP) would decline 14 per cent, after a projected 12 per cent fall in 1991, and unemployment could soar from three million to 25 million, according to the economics ministry's forecast.

It put next year's budget deficit at \$100 billion roubles (\$855 billion at the inflated official rate) in this scenario.

Mr. Troshin said the "relatively optimistic" scenario, dependent on rapid agreement between the republics, would lead to a five per cent fall in GNP, four million jobless and a budget deficit of 389 billion roubles (\$665 billion).

This year's budget deficit was forecast at 240 billion roubles (\$410 billion).

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Amen — Jordan

In contrast only 66 per cent of Americans and 64 per cent of British workers felt secure.

In response to the survey's questions on working conditions, Australian and Singaporean employees were more confident that their pay was fair compared to others.

"The U.K. and Japanese employees feel least satisfied about their pay, with two out of every three feeling they are underpaid for what they do or are not paid fairly compared to others in their company," he pointed out.

Workers in Singapore and Australia were more satisfied with the operating efficiency of their companies than their counterpart in Japan and the United States.

International Research Survey Corporation specialises in employee surveys for large national and multinational organisations and includes among its clients 650 companies in 45 countries.

Another survey shows that the Japanese are the world's thriftiest savers, with an average \$45,118 (6,063,900 yen) banked per head of population in 1990.

The dollar equivalent represented an increase of almost 10 per cent over 1989 but the survey noted that the value of the yen against the dollar had risen by seven per cent in the same period.

Switzerland ranked second with \$19,971 (25,762 Swiss francs) of savings per head in 1990, followed by Denmark with \$18,405 (106,381 crowns) per head.

Others in the list of the world's top 10 savers, covering bank account savings only and converted at exchange rates prevailing at the end of 1990, were:

Dollar Equivalent	National Currency
\$17,650	90,542 French francs
\$17,042	25,392 Deutschmarks
\$16,369	174,822 Austrian schillings
\$15,196	89,808 Danish crowns
\$15,111	468,152 Belgian francs
\$14,492	25,216 Singapore dollars
\$14,282	24,136 Dutch guilders

The International Savings Bank Institute which made the survey said deposits with nearly 2,800 member banks around the world totalled about \$3,500 billion.

In a number of industrialised countries member banks accounted for between one-quarter and one-half of total savings and term deposits of the banking sector as a whole, it added.

CHALET FOR RENT

Yugoslav navy blasts Dubrovnik; Vukovar on the verge of collapse

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslav navy gunboats shelled the besieged Croatian port of Dubrovnik Sunday and federal troops intensified their assaults on strategic towns in the rebel republic.

Croatian radio said two people died in Dubrovnik, where a luxury hotel was hit. Twenty Croatian soldiers were killed Saturday in fighting which was continuing around Karlovac only 50 kilometers south of Zagreb.

In eastern Croatia, defenders of the town of Vukovar on the Serbian border warned that it was on the brink of capture by the Serb-led federal army after an 11-week onslaught.

With Croatia's military situation deteriorating after four months of war and a third of its territory now controlled by the army and Serb guerrillas, the republic announced the imposition of press censorship.

It threatened jail terms of up to five years for journalists who revealed military secrets.

Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj scorned a call by Serbia and its allies in the collective Yugoslav presidency for the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force between Croatia and the Serb minority in the republic.

He described the four-member rump presidency, set up in October after Croatia and Slovenia boycotted the body, as "a bunch of usurpers."

Some 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of federal troops and Serb guerrillas have died in fighting since Croatia declared its independence in June along with the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia.

Croatia's population of 4.5 million includes 600,000 ethnic Serbs who oppose independence.

Reuter correspondent Andrej Gustinic reported from Dubrovnik that the port was heavily bombarded for the third successive day after Croatian defenders ignored a federal ultimatum to surrender.

Two gunboats pounded the cliff-top Belvedere Hotel and artillery shells rained within 100 metres of the historic old town.

Croatian authorities ordered a total mobilisation in Dubrovnik, where the army said it captured one of three hills held by Croatian militia. The hill command the port's defences.

Zagreb Radio reported that Milan Dedakovic, commander of the Croatian forces in Vukovar, had sent a bitter message to the government and warned that the town was on the verge of collapse.

He blamed Croatian leaders for failing to provide sufficient help and added: "If Vukovar falls, and if its population perishes in a massacre... the culprit should be sought first in Zagreb."

About 14,000 of the 50,000

residents of Vukovar are believed to be trapped in the town, where federal forces have fought their way to within a few hundred metres of the centre.

Serbia's proposal that U.N. troops should be sent to Croatia followed the imposition of economic sanctions on Yugoslavia by the European Community and the United States, who also intend to seek a U.N. oil embargo against the Serb-led federal armed forces.

The rump Yugoslav presidency warned that the civil war in Croatia could spread to other parts of the country and said U.N. troops could form a buffer between the warring sides.

Croatia said it would not allow a U.N. deployment along the current front lines, where the guerrillas and the army have seized territory.

Mr. Salaj said the force would have to be stationed on Croatian borders as they existed previously.

Croatian radio said 20 people were hurt in the Dubrovnik bombardment which began at dawn.

It reported that 3,000 Yugoslav troops were also attacking the historic port which has been under heavy fire since Friday.

Eyewitnesses said the Libertas Hotel and houses around the Argentino Hotel were hit during attacks on the port Saturday in which gunboats and warplanes also took part.

Many local residents have fled

the fighting which has so far spared Dubrovnik's historic old town.

It Croatian defenders are defying a federal ultimatum to surrender and withdraw from strategic positions on three hills.

Zejko Slikic, president of the Dubrovnik City Council, said Croatian forces would not lay down their arms despite the intensity of the attacks by the Serb-led federal armed forces.

Federal forces ordered the Croats to withdraw from their three remaining strategic front-line positions, the hills of Srd, Bosanka and Nuncijato, which would leave the city wide open to attack.

Slikic told reporters Saturday: "How could we withdraw? We would be fools to do so. We have told the army we adhere to the (latest) ceasefire and are not advancing."

Shelling Friday night knocked out the city's direct telephone and telex links with the outside world.

In a separate development, the Serb minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina voted Saturday on whether to secede from the ethnically mixed republic they share with Muslims and Croats.

The Serbs were expected to approve secession, which would heighten ethnic tensions in the republic and in the crumbling Yugoslav Federation, which is already scarred by violence in separatist Croatia.

The official, who asked not to be named, was travelling with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived in Tokyo Sunday for talks with the new Japanese government.

During his two-day visit, Mr. Baker will visit Japan still miffed by President George Bush's sudden postponement of a planned



The historic port of Dubrovnik in Croatia is still spared from the bombardment by the Yugoslav army.

U.S. may try to enlist Asian powers in talks with 2 Koreas

TOKYO (R) — The United States, building on positive trends in Asia, may try to bring the region's four major powers into reconciliation talks with North and South Korea, a senior U.S. official said Sunday.

He said no concrete or detailed agreement had been reached but the proposal had gained new currency because of increased fear of nuclear proliferation and shared concerns about tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Baker outlined U.S. thinking on North Korea in the new issue of the influential magazine Foreign Affairs.

He called the armed standoff

on the Korean peninsula "one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints... the very real danger of nuclear proliferation (there)... is now the number one threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific community."

Other officials said North Korea would figure prominently in Baker's talks during a nine-day tour that will also take him to China and South Korea.

Communist North Korea, backed by China, and South Korea, a U.S. ally, have faced each other across a heavily militarised line since their war ended in 1953.

In recent years, however, the two Koreas have made tentative moves toward establishing new ties.

"As the North-South dialogue progresses, we will explore the possibilities for a forum for the two Koreas and the four major powers in North East Asia," Mr. Baker wrote.

A forum would support dialogue, help ease tensions, facilitate discussion of common security concerns and possibly guarantee accords negotiated between the two Koreas, he added.

More bodies found as Aquino hands cheques to flood survivors

ORMOC, Philippines (R) — Rescuers Sunday pulled out six-day-old corpses from houses swamped by floods as President Corazon Aquino distributed cheques and food supplies to survivors of one of the Philippines' worst disasters.

"Welcome to what is left of our city," Ormoc Mayor Victoria Locsin told Mrs. Aquino before she visited a father who had lost his wife and two children in the floods which made 120,000 people homeless across the central island of Leyte.

Standing in the porch of his house in front of three coffins, 31-year-old Cornelio Bernales spoke of the huge floods which engulfed homes in a deadly torrent of mud, lugs and cascading water within minutes.

In a two-hour visit to the devastated coastal city of Ormoc, where relief officials said up to 7,000 people may have died, Mrs. Aquino tried to confront bereaved families and handed over food parcels to mothers with small babies who had lost their husbands.

"I came here to see what your needs are and to console with you," said Mrs. Aquino, speaking to around 300 survivors from the second floor balcony of the relief coordination centre in Ormoc.

Throughout the shattered city of 120,000 people, residents were trying to put their lives back together after tropical storm Thelma Tuesday unleashed 12-foot (three-metre) high floods that buried people, homes and cars into the sea.

Mrs. Aquino also distributed money to the provincial and local governments to rebuild bridges, restore electricity and water supplies.

Military rescue teams were still digging out decomposing bodies from beneath mud and the debris of collapsed homes along two rivers in the ravaged port 560 kilometres south east of Manila.

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She was accompanied by five members of her cabinet and by the Japanese and United States ambassadors who have sent in supplies of blankets, food, medicines, sleeping mats and cloths.

"It's the intensity of the tragedy that really strikes you," said U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto, offering \$1 million in help, said Japan was also hit by several typhoons a year.

"Let us both stand against this horror of nature," he said in a brief speech.

Brigadier-General Romeo Zulueta, who is spearheading relief operations, said that the dead in the streets of Ormoc and the shorelines had now all been collected but more bodies were still being found at sea on islands as far as 40 kilometres away.

After initial complaints from survivors that relief supplies were not getting through, the city now appeared to be full of food, with stocks of rice and fruit on sale, and snack bars and roadside restaurants reopened for business.

U.N. troops, Japanese envoy arrive in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The first contingent of United Nations troops arrived Sunday in Cambodia to help keep the peace after nearly 10 years of bloody civil war.

Thirty-seven Australian soldiers, wearing blue U.N. berets and each armed with a dagger and a pistol, arrived aboard two C-130 transport planes loaded with tonnes of communications equipment.

Earlier in the day, Japan's new ambassador to Cambodia arrived in Phnom Penh as the first in a series of envoys from several major nations streaming back to lend support to peace efforts and reconstruction of this crippled nation.

The Australian soldiers will be joined by about 120 more troops from 22 other countries to observe the truce between the Cambodian government and three guerrilla groups.

"I wish you all success," Atan Karin, head of what will be the largest U.N. peacekeeping mission ever, told the Australians at a brief welcoming ceremony on the tarmac of Phnom Penh's international airport.

The diplomatic invasion will continue Monday, when Charles Twining is to arrive as the charge d'affaires to a new U.S. embassy.

The United States closed its embassy in 1975 as the ultraradical Communist Khmer Rouge closed in on Phnom Penh and toppled the pro-American Lon Nol government.

Other U.N. troops will be deployed in small groups to monitor the ceasefire signed in Paris last month by the four warring factions. New Zealand troops, including two on Sunday's transport from Darwin, Australia, will teach Cambodians how to avoid the tens of thousands of land mines buried throughout the country.

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